

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3960

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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 5527

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION III: SPC MEETING OCTOBER 9

REFS: A) USNATO 5251 DTG 251759Z SEP 75; B) USNATO 5118 DTG

191415Z SEP 75; C) BONN 16562 DTG 081728Z OCT 75;

1. SPC DISCUSSION OF OPTION III ON OCTOBER 9 CONCENTRATED ON AIR MANPOWER ISSUES, IN VIEW OF FRG PROPOSAL OF LANGUAGE ON INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING WITH COMMON EXPLICIT SUB-CEILINGS ON GROUND FORCES. (SEPTTEL).

2. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) SAID HE WISHED TO AMEND THE END OF THE AGREED, FRG RE-WRITE OF THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 5 (PARA 4, REF A) SO THAT THE AHG WOULD MAKE CLEAR ITS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS "ONLY AFTER THE PRINCIPLES OF THE REDUCTIONS WHICH GIVE RISE TO LIMITATIONS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY EXPLORED". HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE PHRASE "WHICH
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GIVE RISE TO LIMITATIONS" WOULD HAVE TO GO INTO BRACKETS. THIS AMENDMENT HE SAID WOULD PREVENT THE EAST FROM LATER USING THE FIRST SENTENCE IN PARA 5 AGAINST THE ALLIES AS AN INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS LIMITATIONS ON NON-US

EQUIPMENT. THE BRACKETED BELGIAN SENTENCE ON MANPOWER LIMITATIONS WOULD OF COURSE REMAIN IN PARA 5. FRG REP (HOYNCK) NOTED THAT FRG HAD PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED SIMILAR LANGUAGE, AND HAD NOT BEEN SATISFIED WITH IT.

3. US REP (MOORE) SAID THAT SPC HAD SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME ON THIS ISSUE, AND HAD FINALLY AGREED TO THE FRG RE-WRITE OF PARA 5. HE THEREFORE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY BELGIUM WAS REOPENING THE WHOLE QUESTION, WITH LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO LANGUAGE SPC HAD ALREADY CONSIDERED AND NOT ACCEPTED. HE SAID THE FRG RE-WRITE OF PARA 5 WAS COMPLETELY NEUTRAL, AND WOULD GIVE THE OTHER SIDE NO OPENING WHATEVER TO CLAIM THAT THE ALLIES HAD OFFERED TO DISCUSS ANY PARTICULAR LIMITATIONS ON EQUIPMENT. THE BELGIAN PHRASE WOULD BE A RED FLAG, WHICH WOULD PUT ALLIES IN POSITION OF RAISING THE EQUIPMENT ISSUE, WOULD ATTRACT EASTERN ATTENTION, DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION FROM THE MAIN ALLIED PROPOSAL, AND PUT ALLIES IN THE MIDST OF A PREMATURE DISCUSSION ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS.

4. UK REP (BAILES) SAID HER AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT TACTICS ON THE EQUIPMENT LIMITATION ISSUE CAN BEST BE HANDLED IN THE TACTICS PAPER. IF THAT IS THE CASE, THE UK WOULD NOT CONSIDER THAT THE ORDER OF THE EQUIPMENT PARAGRAPHS IN THE DRAFT GUIDANCE WAS IMPORTANT. UK ON THAT BASIS COULD AGREE TO MOVE PARA 10 ON NON-US EQUIPMENT AHEAD OF PARA 6 (TEXT IN REF B).

US REP OBSERVED THAT FRG HAD PROPOSE THIS AT A PREVIOUS MEETING, AND HAD LATER WITHDRAWN THIS PROPOSAL AS UNADVISABLE. US ALSO WOULD NOT WANT TO MOVE PARA 10 AHEAD OF PARA 6. FRG REP SAID THAT FRG WOULD NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUDE THIS COURSE.

5. UK REP SAID UK WISHED TO RAISE ONE ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF UK POSITION THAT APPROPRIATE DEFINITION OF THE COMMON CEILING MUST PROVIDE FOR PHASE I AGREEMENT ON THE INITIAL FORCE LEVELS ON BOTH SIDES. SHE NOTED THAT THE NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN PHASES WAS BASED ON FORCE LEVELS AT THE TIME OF THE PHASE I AGREEMENT.

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WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON THE EXISTING FORCE LEVELS, THE ALLIES WOULD NOT KNOW HOW TO MAKE SENSE OUT OF THE NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN THE NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT TO ALLIED PUBLIC OPINION WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON DATA ON THE EXISTING FORCE LEVELS.

6. UK REP SAID THAT LONDON WONDERED IF PARA 14 OF THE DRAFT POSITION PAPER ADEQUATELY REFLECTED THE SPC DECISION TO DELETE FROM THE DRAFT GUIDANCE THE REFERENCE TO GETTING INTO THE AGREEMENT THAT US WAS FREE TO RESTORE DEFICIENT TANK STOCKS TO EARLIER LEVELS. US REP REPLIED THAT PARA 14 OF THE DRAFT POSITION PAPER SIMPLY ESTABLISHED THAT THE US SHOULD HAVE THAT FREEDOM. THE FACT THAT THIS DID NOT HAVE

TO BE A PROVISION IN THE AGREEMENT WAS AMPLY REFLECTED BY THE PREVIOUS US AGREEMENT TO DELETE THIS LATTER REQUIREMENT FROM THE DRAFT GUIDANCE.

7. BELGIAN REP REMOVED THE OUTER BRACKETS FROM AROUND PARA 15 (MANPOWER) OF THE POSITION PAPER, AND INSTEAD SIMPLY BRACKETED THE PHRASE "AIR AND" IN THE TWO PLACES WHERE THESE TWO WORDS APPEAR.

8. ITALIAN REP (CIARRAPICO) AGAIN ASKED WHEN THE US WOULD SUBMIT ITS TACTICS PAPER, AND US REP SAID HE EXPECTED WORD SOON.

9. COMMENT: CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT HAS DEVELOPED IN SPC IN FACOR OF A TACTICS PAPER DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH US WAS AWAITING FRG REPLY AS TO WHETHER FRG BELIEVED A TACTICS PAPER WAS NECESSARY. ITALIAN, UK AND BELGIAN REPS ALL CLEARLY DESIRE A TACTICS PAPER, AND IT APPEARS TO TUS THAT FRG DOES ALSO. UK SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT A TACTICS PAPER WOULD BE THE BEST PLACE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF HOW THE AHG SHOULD HANDLE EARLY EASTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT NON-US EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS. THE ADDITION TO PARA 3 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE TO BE SUBMITTED BY FRG SHOULD OF COURSE HELP RESOLVE THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE.

10. SINCE THE US HAS UNDERTAKEN TO SUBMIT THE TACTICS PAPER, AND IN VIEW OF CONTINUING INTEREST OF UK, BELGIUM AND ITALY IN SUCH A PAPER, WE BELIEVE US SHOULD ADDRESS THE QUESTION
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OF A TACTICS PAPER AT SPC MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 13. WE BELIEVE THE US SHOULD EITHER ADVISE THE ALLIES AS TO WHEN WE EXPECT TO SUBMIT SUCH A PAPER, OR INVITE THEIR COMMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD BE PREFERRABLE TO COMPLETE WORK ON THE DRAFT GUIDANCE AND POSITION PAPER BEFORE SUBMISSION OF THE TACTICS PAPER. IN OUR VIEW, UK, BELGIUM AND ITALY WILL RROBABLY WISH EARLY SUBMISSION OF A TACTICS PAPER, RATHER THAN AWAITING COMPLETION OF THE GUIDANCE AND POSITION PAPER.
END COMMENT

11. ACTION REQUESTED: IN TIME FOR SPC MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 13:

A. WASHINGTON COMMENT IN LIGHT OF PARAS 9-10 ABOVE ON THE TACTICS PAPER.

B. GUIDANCE PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED ON THE ISSUE REPRESENTED BY "WITHDRAWN BY THE US" IN PARA 6 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE.
STREATOR

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